

Practice

1 Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

- a) I don't think you *could/should* tell anyone yet.
- b) I *couldn't/shouldn't* possibly leave without paying.
- c) That *mustn't/can't* be the hotel Jane told us about.
- d) There are times when the traffic here *can/could* be really heavy.
- e) We are enjoying our holiday, though the weather *could/must* be better.
- f) You *couldn't/shouldn't* really be sitting here.
- g) You *could/may* be older than me, but that doesn't mean you're cleverer.
- h) You *might/should* like to look over these papers if you have time.
- i) I'm afraid that nobody *should/would* help me in that kind of situation.
- j) No member of the association *must/shall* remove official documents from these premises without written permission.

2 Put one suitable word in each space. Contractions (*can't*) count as one word.

- Bill: This (1) *must* be the house, I suppose, number 16 Elland Way.
 Jane: I pictured it as being much bigger, from the estate agent's description.
 Bill: Well, we'd (2) go inside.
 Jane: We (3) as well. Wait a minute. I (4) to just find my glasses. I (5) see a thing without them.
 Bill: I don't think much of it from the outside, to be honest.
 Jane: Yes, it (6) certainly do with a coat of paint or two.
 Bill: Rather you than me! I (7) like to have to paint it all! And the gutters (8) replacing.
 Jane: I (9) think they haven't been replaced since the house was built.
 Bill: They (10) really be replaced every four years ideally.
 Jane: And I don't like that big ivy plant growing up the side. Ivy (11) get in the brickwork and cause all sorts of damage.
 Bill: I wonder if there's a lock on that big downstairs window? It looks very easy to break in to.
 Jane: There's (12) to be one, surely.
 Bill: Well, (13) we go inside?
 Jane: Do we (14) to? I think I've seen enough already. I (15) possibly live here.

3 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

- a) I couldn't be happier at the moment.

could

I am as *happy as could be* at the moment.

- b) Although I tried hard, I couldn't lift the suitcase.

might

Try , I couldn't lift the suitcase.

- c) I'm sure that Peter won't be late.

bound

Peter on time.

- d) Fancy you and I having the same surname!

should

It's odd the same surname!

- e) I think you should take up jogging.

were

If I take up jogging.

- f) It's possible that this kind of snake is poisonous.

could

This snake the poisonous kinds.

- g) You can't borrow my car!

won't

I borrow my car!

- h) I'm sure this isn't how you get to Norwich!

can't

This way to Norwich!

- i) It makes no difference to me if we call it off.

may

We call it off.

- j) Although it's summer, the temperature is more like winter.

may

It the temperature is more like winter.

4 Choose the sentence A or B that is closest in meaning to the sentence given.

- a) It's possible that we'll know the answers tomorrow. ...^A.....
 A We may know the answers tomorrow.
 B We should know the answers tomorrow.
- b) I don't think you should ring him now. It's rather late.
 A You might not ring him now. It's rather late.
 B You'd better not ring him now. It's rather late.
- c) You needn't come if you don't want to.
 A You won't come if you don't want to.
 B You don't have to come if you don't want to.
- d) I think it's wrong for you to work so hard.
 A You don't have to work so hard.
 B You shouldn't work so hard.
- e) Perhaps these are the keys.
 A These might be the keys.
 B These must be the keys.
- f) It would be wrong for us to lock the cat in the house for a week.
 A We'd better not lock the cat in the house for a week.
 B We can't lock the cat in the house for a week.
- g) It's possible that the decision will be announced next week.
 A The decision might be announced next week.
 B The decision will be announced next week.
- h) Although I try hard, I can never solve 'The Times' crossword.
 A Try as I may, I can never solve 'The Times' crossword.
 B Try as I can, I may never solve 'The Times' crossword.
- i) I know. Why don't we go out to eat instead?
 A I know. We must go out to eat instead.
 B I know. We could go out to eat instead.



5 Complete each sentence with one of the phrases from the box.

couldn't be wouldn't be I might ~~don't have to~~ couldn't possibly
must be must like need to may be might as well

- a) The heating comes on automatically. You *don't have to* turn it on.
b) Of course I'll help! I let you do it on your own.
c) It's a lovely hotel. And the staff more helpful.
d) George it there if he has stayed there for so long.
e) You right, but I'm still not convinced.
f) We go in this museum. There's nothing else to do.
g) I love these trees. Without them the garden the same.
h) There's the phone call I was expecting. It George.
i) Thanks. And now you just sign on the dotted line.
j) Try as , I simply couldn't open the lid.

6 In most lines of this text there is an extra word. Write the word, or put a tick if the line is correct.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| I may as well be admit it – I'm a secret admirer of all things connected | 1 <i>be</i> |
| with trains! It's not with something you would want to admit to your | 2 |
| friends, but I can't imagine life possibly without my collection of model | 3 |
| trains and train memorabilia. You're probably thinking I must be done | 4 |
| some kind of nerd who stands around on chilly platforms all day | 5 |
| collecting train numbers, and yes, I have to admit for I've done my fair | 6 |
| share of that, but that's only a small part of it. I can just love the feel of | 7 |
| railway stations, and I can cheerfully spend a whole of afternoon in | 8 |
| one, just walking around soaking up to the atmosphere of the place, | 9 |
| looking for things for my collection, and taking photos of new engines. | 10 |
| Call me might a wierdo, but I'd far rather spend a day in a station | 11 |
| than on the beach by sunning myself. I'd be too busy taking the train | 12 |
| down the coast – coastal routes can be an absolutely spectacular. | 13 |
| There's a convention for those railway lovers on the south coast soon | 14 |
| – rest assured that I shall be there. I wouldn't miss it for all the world! | 15 |

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Grammar 8: Conditionals
Grammar 12: Modals: past
Grammar 14: Emphasis